

Hearing Opens On Poll Tax In Virginia

Repeal Is Proposed; Absent Voters Law Study Also Sought

By the Associated Press.
RICHMOND, Va., Mar. 21.—Preliminary skirmishing in the Virginia General Assembly today over repeal of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting was postponed today at a joint public hearing arranged by the Senate and House Committees on Privileges and Elections.

The hearing was set in the House of Delegates to accommodate large crowds interested in the issue.

Resolutions have been offered calling for repeal of the poll tax, for repeal of the tax for veterans and mandatory collection from others, and for a commission to study the suffrage laws of the State, including the poll tax.

Absent Voters Study Proposed.

Another resolution would request the Advisory Legislative Council to study the State's absent voters law with a view to amending and strengthening it and removing the possibility of corruption.

Gov. Darden has offered recommendation on two occasions to the Legislature for changes in the absent voters law to prevent corruption in elections.

In connection with the move for abolition of the poll tax, the Governor has taken the position that the matter should be studied by a commission prior to the next regular session in January. Such a commission would consider also what qualifications should be adopted for the voting right in lieu of the poll tax.

The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee arranged for a joint public hearing at 3 p.m. today on bills carrying out Gov. Darden's recommendations for a \$4,783,990 program of improvements to the public school system.

Other Improvement Bills Offered.

In addition, bills designed to make other improvements and adjustments, including a proposed constitutional amendment, were offered at the special session.

Another resolution would request that the Denny School Study Commission continue its study of school consolidation and transportation of pupils.

The proposed constitutional amendment would permit the State Board of Education to set up one school board for two or more subdivisions, in place of the present system of having a board limited strictly to one county. The State Board now has the right to create school divisions composed of two or more counties, but under the constitutional provision each county in such a division has a separate school board.

Judge's Removal Recommended.

Counsel for Judge A. B. Carney, whose removal as judge of the Norfolk County Circuit Court was recommended by a legislative group yesterday, will be given an opportunity to be heard, tomorrow at a joint meeting of the Committee of Justice of the Senate and House. This meeting was set for 3 p.m.

A joint subcommittee of the two committees received the report without taking any immediate action.

The subcommittee's report, read by Chairman Stuart Campbell of Wythe, recommended the judge's removal by joint resolution "because of his agreement to pay a part of his salary to Judge Coleman as the consideration for Judge Coleman's retirement from, and his own election to that position."

The payments were \$112.50 a month, the report said.

Loudoun County Will Oppose Potomac Dams at Public Hearing

Residents Contend Valuable Lands Would Be Inundated Under Plan

Loudoun County (Va.) residents were forming their lines today to present a solid front of opposition to the proposed Potomac River flood control plan at a public hearing here April 3 before the Board of Army Engineers for Rivers and Harbors.

David N. Rust, owner of a large farm on Goose Creek, was appointed at a mass meeting at the Loudoun County Court House yesterday to head a committee to organize county opposition to the project.

The proposed flood control plan, calling for construction of 14 dams along the Potomac and its tributaries, at an estimated cost of \$235,000,000, would flood valuable farmland along Goose Creek and Broad Run, and would inundate bottom land along the Potomac River in the eastern section of the county, residents said.

Sees Flooding of 35,000 Acres.

Asserting that the Isaak Walton League of America is "definitely opposed to the project," Dr. W. B. Holton, a member of the league's Executive Board, said he feared that he could see little benefit from the flood control plan, since an estimated 35,000 acres of valuable farmland would be flooded permanently instead of occasionally inundated by seasonal floods.

Dr. Holton said the result of these dams would be the generation of hydroelectric power, and the minor results would be flood control, pollution control and recreation. "As this section lies near the coal producing areas, it would be cheaper to generate power there than by hydroelectric developments on the Potomac River," Dr. Holton said.

He added that he could "see little benefit from pollution control," and that the recreation advantages

"would be negligible" since large areas of mud flats would be formed along the reservoirs. Game fish, he said, would give way in a few years to the rough fish such as carp and catfish.

Loss of Historic Area Predicted.

Dr. Holton said "acres of intense historic value would be lost forever by the encroaching waters, and the birds and flowers in the Great Falls gorge would be destroyed forever."

Thomas B. Byrd, Clarke County, a brother of Senator Byrd, said that in addition to destroying valuable farmland, the proposed dams also would injure those who serve agriculture, since many farmers would go out of business.

D. S. Wallace of the Virginia Conservation Commission's division of water resources said he also opposed the project.

Meanwhile, opposition to the project in West Virginia appeared to be growing, with the announcement that several State and private organizations would go on record in opposition to the project.

Other Projects Planned.

Clyde Bonar, Mineral County, president of the West Virginia Farm Bureau, said the bureau will enter a "formal protest" against the plan. Mr. Bonar also said the West Virginia Public Service Commission and the State Agriculture Department will file protests.

The Farm Bureau head said that according to estimates about 24.9 per cent of the land in Hampshire County and about 7 per cent of the land in Mineral County would be flooded by dams at Springfield, Patterson's Creek and at Keyser. He said Morgan and Berkeley Counties also would be damaged by the project.

Poker Friends Of Mrs. Boyer To See Medley

Grand Jury to Get Murder Case Soon, Government Hints

Friends of Mrs. Nancy Boyer, who was slain after a poker party in her Sixteenth street apartment two weeks ago, will attend a special lineup at police headquarters at 8 o'clock tonight to look at Joseph Medley, 43-year-old escaped convict.

Police would not reveal the names of the persons called, but it was believed the participants in a card game on the night of the murder would certainly be among them. Medley, according to police, was believed to have returned to Mrs. Boyer's apartment at 2120 Sixteenth street N.W. after the game ended.

Mrs. Boyer's body was discovered on the morning of March 8, two days after she died of bullet wounds. An inquest into the death of Mrs. Boyer was set for 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Morgue.

Questioning Continues.

Meanwhile, homicide squad detectives were expected today to continue questioning the suspect who was captured by the FBI in St. Louis Sunday. They already have had several sessions with him, during which he said he wanted to cooperate but refused to answer any significant questions until he had retained counsel, it was said.

Medley was arraigned yesterday on a charge of fleeing from Washington to escape prosecution of the slaying by United States Commissioner Neesham C. Turnage and arraigned on a murder warrant Monday night on his arrival here under FBI guard.

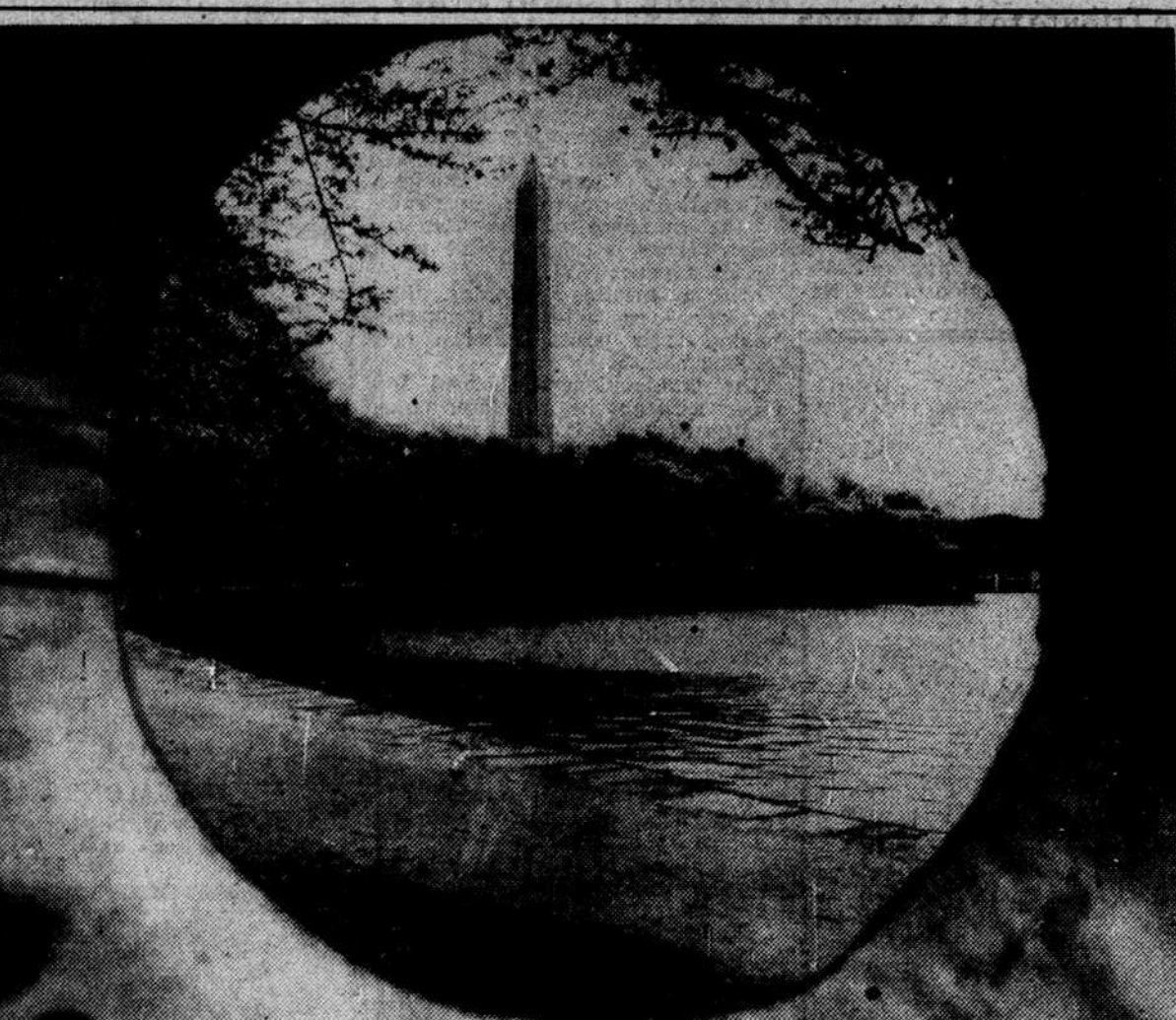
It now is indicated that a grand jury indictment may be returned against a man early next week. It is customary in major criminal cases for the United States attorney to hurry the case to a grand jury without waiting a complete formal arraignment, it was said.

Clothing Brought Back.

United States Attorney Edward M. Curran and John Fihely, his assistant, conferred for an hour and a half yesterday with Inspector Robert J. Barrett, chief of detectives, and four FBI agents. Mr. Curran said the conferees had discussed the evidence against Medley, but that they were not yet ready to make an announcement of their plans.

Two suitcases and a bundle of clothes were turned over to Curran by the FBI yesterday. The clothing included a fur jacket, believed to have been taken from the apartment of Mrs. Boyer. This and the other items were found in Medley's St. Louis hotel room when he was arrested in the company of a woman early Sunday. A handbag believed to have been Mrs. Boyer's also was found.

Inspector Barrett said a ring he recovered in Pittsburgh has been identified as one taken from Mrs. Boyer. He said the operator of the pawnshop where the ring was found and an employee could identify Medley as the man who brought it in.



THEY'RE IN BLOOM—DAYS AHEAD OF TIME—The cherry trees bordering the Tidal Basin burst into bloom yesterday morning ahead of the beginning of spring, which began officially at 7:38 p.m. yesterday, when the sun crossed the Tropic of Cancer. The warm weather caused an exceptionally good blooming of the coral pink blossoms, which used to be the occasion of an annual trip to Washington of thousands of visitors in the spring. This circular-framed view was taken through a lifesaver hanging beside the Tidal Basin for emergencies.

Taxicab Rate Fixing In Prince Georges Asked by Citizens

A request by two members of the Prince Georges County Federation of Citizens' Associations that action be taken to fix taxicab rates in the county was being considered today by the County Commissioners.

Charles F. Luebner and Daniel M. Greene, in appearing before the commissioners at their meeting yesterday in Upper Marlboro, charged that county cab drivers are charging "exorbitant rates."

Mr. Luebner cited one case in which a passenger had been charged \$4 to go from University Park to Union Station, a distance of approximately 8 miles. He said he often had been forced to pay \$1.75 to go from Hyattsville to his home in University Park, a distance of about 2 miles.

Mr. Greene said Leroy Humphrey, chairman of the county delegation in the State Legislature, had told him the Maryland Public Service Commission would fix rates if asked to do so by the County Commissioners.

He and Mr. Luebner, however, suggested that the act passed in the Legislature two years ago giving the commissioners power to regulate and inspect taxicabs be amended to include rate-fixing authority.

William A. Carson, chairman of the board, said he would confer with Mr. Humphrey on the matter.

The commissioners announced that they have approved the proposed 1945-46 county school budget providing for a \$100 increase in teachers' minimum salary.

George J. Panagoulis, Greenbelt police chief, in a letter to the board, praised County Policeman Charles N. Thomsen for his co-operation with and aid to the Greenbelt Police Department.

Arnold Lines Seeks To Open New Bus Route

The State Corporation Commission has ordered a hearing in Richmond April 19 on an application filed by the Arnold-Operated Bus Lines of Arlington for authority to operate a line connecting McLean, in Fairfax County, with the lines, existing routes in Arlington County.

Bus line officials said the proposed route would begin at McLean and would connect with an existing route at the intersection of Glebe road and Old Dominion drive. The new route would serve the Franklin Park, Chesterbrook and El Nido communities between McLean and the Glebe road connecting point, officials said.

Montgomery Names Three to Outline Rabies Control Plan

Establishment of a rabies-control program in Montgomery County similar to that in effect last year was being considered today by the County Commissioners.

Approval of such a plan was requested by James W. King, president of the County Farm Bureau, and County Agent O. W. Anderson at a meeting of the commissioners yesterday in Rockville.

"If a thorough job like last year's is accomplished," Mr. Anderson declared, "rabies could be stamped out with the co-operation of the District and Prince Georges County."

Stray Dogs Blamed.

He said most cases of the disease are caused by stray dogs from the District and Prince Georges County. Approximately 90 per cent of the dogs in Montgomery County were inoculated against rabies last year in a program sponsored by the Farm Bureau at the expense of the county.

Commissioners Walter Johnson, Richard H. Lansdale and William Prescott were appointed to work out details of a program with Dr. V. L. Elliott, county health officer, and Farm Bureau members.

Detective Corporal William M. Whalen, attached to the Bethesda police station, was named to attend the FBI National Police Academy here, beginning April 16. Corporal Whalen, who assisted in the investigation of the Cores murder case, was invited to attend the school by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

Corens, 44-year-old Bethesda automobile painter, is charged with the murder of his wife, Pearl, 31.

Emergency Policeman Named.

Joseph R. Willey, Takoma Park town policeman, was appointed an emergency policeman for a 60-day period. The board also accepted the resignation of Frank L. Hewitt, Jr., as a member of the County Board of Assessment.

A request by Edward G. Adams for permission to use part of the Bradley Hills Country Club property as a private airplane landing strip was referred to Joseph A. Cantor, attorney for the club.

The commissioners took under advisement a request by Bayou Beulah H. McCuen of Glen Echo that Oak Dale Villa, an apartment building, be condemned as a "fire hazard and a health menace."

3 Communities Hit Incorporation Plan At Annapolis Hearing

Opposition to the proposed inclusion of Berwyn, Lakeland and the Calvert Homes development in a bill to incorporate the College Park area was voiced last night at a hearing before the Prince Georges County delegation in Annapolis.

Major action against the bill, now pending before the Maryland Assembly, were that benefits from incorporation would not outweigh the cost to residents of the three communities and that insufficient time had been given them to study the plan.

Mayor Harry A. Barker of Riverdale contended that the Calvert Homes development should be annexed to his town, as proposed in another bill. He pointed out that the only direction in which the bill would move is toward the College Park area and that the development is adjacent to Riverdale.

Proponents of the incorporation bill, including Dr. T. B. Symons of the University of Maryland and Judge Walter L. Green, said several mass meetings had been held to acquaint residents of the area with the proposal.

Dr. Symons added that Berwyn had asked to be included in the plan at a meeting of its residents. He said that he believed sufficient information had been given to the residents at a mass meeting there and that he hoped he could convince them to approve the proposal.

Dr. Symons explained it would be difficult to exclude Lakeland since it would be in the center of the proposed College Park area.

Judge Green pointed out that the Calvert Homes development has always been considered a part of the College Park area and that residents get their mail at College Park.

Smith Suggests Chests In Nearby Areas Air Troubles With D. C.

The suggestion that other Community Chest offices in suburban Virginia are not satisfied with their relations with the Washington Chest and might welcome the opportunity to join Alexandria in discussing their grievances, was made last night by Representative Smith, Democrat of Virginia at a meeting arranged by the Alexandria Community Chest Board to consider campaign problems.

Pointing out that the problem caused by the Washington Chest's policy of soliciting funds from Government workers who live in Alexandria is not a new one, Mr. Smith said he served on a committee 10 years ago that tried to find some solution to the problem which still comes up in every campaign.

Although Alexandria is the only community in the Washington area which has a separate Community Chest, Mr. Smith said he has been informed that other Chest groups included in the Washington campaign are not satisfied with the way funds are allocated to their agencies and might be interested in a joint effort with the Washington Chest officials to come to some workable agreement.

Pledging his support to Alexandria in its effort to solve the problem of the loss of funds from residents who work in Government offices, Mr. Smith said he regretted that he was not too optimistic of a satisfactory agreement unless some move is made to eliminate all solicitations in Government offices.

The committee, composed of representatives of civic groups and members at large, voted that the Community Chest president, Luther H. Dudley, appoint an eight-man committee from its number to confer with Washington Officials and that representatives of other Chest groups in the Metropolitan Area should be invited to discuss their problems if such a plan is considered practical.

Maryland House Kills 'Jim Crow' Repealer

By the Associated Press.
ANNAPOLIS, Md., Mar. 21.—The Senate-approved repealer on the 41-year-old "Jim Crow" law requiring separate accommodations for whites and Negroes on public conveyances was killed in the House of Delegates yesterday.

The House—with a chorus of "No's" from the county delegations—killed a motion to have the bill substituted for the unfavorable report of the Judiciary Committee and then went ahead at yesterday's session to adopt the report with a roar of "Ayes" that sent several Senators over to the House chamber to see what was going on.

The repealer has been introduced in each session of the Legislature since 1922.

This time it had the backing of Gov. O'Connor's administration and passed the Senate, 20 to 9, with no debate.

"Most of the delegates," said one member of the House who asked not to be quoted by name, "seemed satisfied that the controversial subject was gotten out of the way with no debate, and without a roll call placing them on record."

Five Companies Fight Cabin John Brush Fire

A brush fire which started near Cabin John yesterday raged over approximately 300 acres of woodland as far as Potomac before it was extinguished by five Montgomery County fire companies.

Firemen said their efforts were hampered by a high wind, which fanned the flames. Five homes in the area escaped damage and no one was hurt. Fire department from Glen Echo, Cabin John, Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Rockville fought the blaze for almost four hours.

A total of 34 brush fires were reported yesterday in the Metropolitan Area of the county. Prince Georges County firemen responded to 19 brush fires, beginning at 2 p.m. yesterday.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Mar. 21 (AP).—Timber fires yesterday burned over more than 165 acres of woodland and destroyed a four-room dwelling in Anne Arundel County, and other smaller blazes dotted the State.

The Anne Arundel County fires, the largest of which was between the Annapolis boulevard and the Ritchie highway near Earleigh Heights, was brought under control after a four-hour battle by more than 500 persons.

Police Seeking Man In Two Attack Cases

Alexandria and Fairfax County police today were searching for a colored man thought to be the same man who criminally assaulted an Alexandria white woman and attempted to assault another white woman in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County Detective Lt. Henry Magarity said a colored man broke into a house on Route 236 near Alexandria, early yesterday and attempted to assault a woman.

The man is thought to be the one who entered a ground-floor apartment at Hunting Terrace, south Washington street, Alexandria, shortly before midnight Monday and assaulted a young married woman whose husband was at work, police said.

Alexandria police said the victim reported that she was awakened by a flashlight. She told police that when she spoke, thinking her husband had returned, the intruder threatened to kill her if she resisted him. She said that after attacking her the man fled through an open window.

In another case of criminal assault on a white woman, Alfred Melton, 33, colored, of the 900 block of North Alfred street, Alexandria, was held for grand jury action yesterday. He is charged with attacking a 36-year-old waitress March 10 in the 600 block of North Washington street. Melton also was charged with robbing two other white women the same night.

Monday Morning Liquor Sales Urged

By the Associated Press.
ANNAPOLIS, Md., Mar. 21.—Members of the Prince Georges County Restaurant and Hotel Owner's Association are not opposed to stopping liquor sales in parts of Prince Georges County at midnight on Saturday, but would like to sell from midnight Sunday to 2 a.m.

A spokesman for the group who appeared yesterday at a hearing on two Legislature bills which would call for the earlier closing hour, said the week end influx from Washington, where bars are closed at midnight Saturdays, was too much to cope with.

The spokesman, Robert W. McCullough, told the county delegation to the Legislature that "lack of law enforcement in the towns of Colmar Manor and Cottage City" was the cause of disorders complained by residents of the towns at a previous hearing on the bills.

He quoted four Hyattsville policemen as agreeing that "50 per cent of the annoyance would be stopped if liquor places closed from midnight Saturday until noon Sunday."

One Prince Georges County retailer, Edward Smith, said that "we get a better class of people on Sunday nights," in asking that the House bills be amended to permit sale of beer and light wines from midnight Sunday until 2 a.m. Monday.

Maryland Senate Group Reports Recreation Bill

By the Associated Press.
ANNAPOLIS, Md., Mar. 21.—A favorable report had been decided on today by the Senate's Natural Resources Committee on a bill to permit establishment of recreational areas in the Chesapeake Bay Area, which would allow the Board of Public Works to acquire the land by gift or purchase.

However, amendments written in to the measure deprived State agencies of the power to condemn land desired for the purpose. The amendments were understood to be in line with Gov. O'Connor's recommendations on the proposed legislation.

The present measure is a diluted version of a bill introduced by Senate President Lindsay which would give the board power to condemn 5,000 acres in event county if all other attempts to obtain the land failed.

Benefit Movie Show

The Alta Vista (Md.) School Association will sponsor a benefit movie Friday and Saturday at the Hiler Theater, Bethesda. The picture, "Fall in the Saddle," with John Wayne and Ella Raines, will be shown at 3 p.m. Friday and at 10 a.m. Saturday.

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Charter Committee Raps Planning Commission Bill

Opposition to a bill now pending in the Maryland General Assembly which would strip the powers of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission was expressed today by the Montgomery County Charter Committee's administrative board.

Asserting that the planning commission "already has ample powers," the group added that it would not approve giving the commission the powers to issue bonds since its members are appointed by the Governor and are not responsible to taxpayers.

The charter group said the bill was "merely a vehicle to raise the salaries of the park and planning commissioners."

Service Society Elects

Mrs. Winthrop Toan, 707 South Royal street, has been elected president of the Alexandria Family Service Society. The Rev. Fred V. Poag was re-elected vice president, Mrs. B. Gordon Green, secretary, and F. Orlin Wasserman, treasurer. Mrs. Harry Wasserman was appointed to represent the agency on the Council of Social Agencies.

D. C. Firm Is Low Bidder On Alexandria Firehouse

Lee T. Turner of Washington was low bidder for construction of the new Alexandria firehouse on Cameron Mills road and the City Council is expected to award that firm a contract to construct the station at a cost of \$46,929.

Seven bids were opened yesterday. Work is scheduled to start Saturday and to be completed in 150 days.

The Turner firm also was the low bidder for construction of the Alexandria health center, now being built.

Other firms bidding were Eugene Simpson & Bro. of Alexandria, whose bid came nearest to Mr. Turner's figure; Baltimore Contractors E. L. Daniels & Co., Arlington; Kent & Co., Richmond; F. H. Martel & Co., Washington, and John Tester & Son, Washington.

The firehouse, which will be Alexandria's fifth station, will be of brick-and-frame construction with sleeping quarters for firemen on the second floor and a classroom wing on the main floor.

—Star Staff Photo.

NOTICE TO CHURCHES

Churches having extra services on Palm Sunday and Easter may use double column space in THE STAR to present their messages on Saturdays, Mar. 24 and 31. Because of the continued newspaper shortage double column notices must be contained within reasonable limits.

For further information, call Church Advertising Department, National 5000, extension 231.

House Votes \$7,100 Bill For Accident Damages

A bill authorizing payment of \$6,340 to Elsie Powkes Jackson and \$750 to Leonard D. Jackson, both of Alexandria, for injuries suffered when their automobile was struck by a Navy station wagon at Fourteenth street and Constitution avenue, in January, 1944, was passed by the House yesterday.

Happy Couple Gets FHA Dividend Check

HAPPY COUPLE GETS FHA DIVIDEND CHECK—Their home paid for in 8 years instead of 18, and Mrs. J. Stuart Knobe, 3834 Calvert street N.W., yesterday received the second FHA dividend check in the Nation from Walter Cox, FHA district director (left). The check was for \$92.47. Approximately 13,000 other home owners throughout the country who paid off in full mortgages insured by the FHA will receive dividends.

—Star Staff Photo.

Daily Rationing Reminders

Meats, Fats, Etc.—Book 4, red stamps Q-5 through S-5 good through March 31; stamps T-5 through X-5 good through April 28; stamps Y-5, Z-5, A-2 through D-2 good through June 2. Stamps E-2 through J-2 good through June 30.

Canned Goods, Etc.—Book 4, blue stamps X-5 through Z-5, A-2 and B-2 good through March 31; stamps C-2 through G-2 good through April 28; stamps H-2 through M-2 good through June 2; stamps N-2 through S-2 good through June 30. Each stamp worth 10 points.

Points for Fats—Your meat dealer will pay two red ration points for each pound of waste kitchen fats you turn in.

Sugar—Stamp 35 valid for 5 pounds through June 2.

Gasoline—A-14 coupons valid for 4 gallons each through today. A-15 coupons valid through June 21, starting tomorrow. B-5, C-5, B-6, C-6, B-7 and C-7 coupons good for 5 gallons each.

Shoes—Airplane stamps 1, 2 and 3 in Book No. 3 good indefinitely for one pair of shoes each.

Fuel Oil—Periods one, two, three and four and five coupons good for 10 gallons per unit through heating year. Consumers in this area should not have used more than 84 per cent of their ration as of today.

Degree days—Total for month, 273; total for season to date, 3,855; normal for season to date, 3,855.

Maryland Gets Supplemental Budget Today

Biennial Program
Expected to Reach
Nearly \$118,000,000

By the Associated Press.
ANNAPOLIS, Mar. 21.—The General Assembly was prepared today to receive Gov. O'Connor's supplemental budget for the next biennium, which was expected to up the State's fiscal program for the two years by about \$5,000,000 to around \$118,000,000.

The biggest item on the list, the Governor said, would be the more than \$4,000,000 needed to finance the administration's program for expansion of the public schools system.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate continued to set a pace that, if maintained, will break all records in the matters of bills introduced and legislation given approval during one session.

Seven of the 49 bills passed at yesterday's session by the House of Delegates incorporate major portions of the education program. They include bills to raise rates for school purposes from 51 to 56 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation in counties sharing in the "equalization plan" and to permit institution of adult training courses.

Oyster Bill Pigeon-holed.

The lower House pigeon-holed a bill which would require an eight-pint measuring cup for oysters instead of the nine-pint cup now legal.

One of the more important bills passed by the upper House yesterday was one which would clamp State controls on building and loan associations.

The bill, backed by the Senate Finance Committee and advanced successfully over violent objections from the Judicial Proceedings Committee, passed 12, with the membership of the latter committee voting almost solidly against it.

The successful passage of the measure was the climax of an inter-committee fight without precedent in the memory of the oldest attaches of the General Assembly. The dispute arose over the introduction of the measure by Finance Committee members, while the judicial proceedings group had under consideration one introduced earlier.

Relief Bill Stirs Battle.

While the debate over this measure was going on in the Senate the House of Delegates was the scene of a battle which would have direct relief to persons who have been Maryland residents less than five years.

The argument arose over a proposed amendment to exempt those discharged from the armed service for "honorable" reasons from the income tax. The amendment was defeated and the bill passed to final passage stage as amended to exempt war veterans and registered voters.

Under the building and loan associations' bill, the institutions would be placed under supervision of the State banking commissioner to whom annual reports and audits would be made.

The Senate also passed a racing bill repealing the State Racing Commission's action last year in imposing one-half of 1 per cent of the mutual take previously allowed the tracks for improvements to their plants.

Housing Measure Passes.

Other bills passed by the Senate in its short but busy session included a bill to amend the State Housing Act to give the State Housing Commission authority to initiate development of defense housing projects and to reduce to 18 the age of persons permitted to drive school buses and other common carriers. These two were sent to the House for signature.

The Senate set something of a record for speed when it passed a total of 47 measures—most of them local—while Senate President Lindsay was away from the rostrum for six minutes getting relief from the heat of the chamber.

Under the bill, houses sold last night that they were confident the Legislature could wind up its business and adjourn sine die by the end of next week—at least two days before the constitutional limit of 90 days, due to expire April 2.

Sheriff to Seek Advice On Jail-Break Action

Prince Georges County Sheriff R. Earle Sheriff was to confer today with State's Attorney A. Gwynn Bowie to determine whether any charges should be placed against four men who attempted to escape from the Upper Marlboro Jail Monday.

The sheriff said the attempted break occurred as Maureen Moore, a guard, was taking the men into the runway adjoining the cell block after they had worked all day on county roads.

He said the prisoners "rushed" Mr. Moore and one, Harry L. Rink, who is being held for the April term of circuit court on charges of breaking and entering, picked up a broom in the hall and hit Mr. Moore on the head.

Meanwhile, Vincent Wells, a jailer, had closed the door leading to the runway before the other three men could escape. He and Mr. Moore then subdued Rink and placed him in his cell.

The other three men, the sheriff said, are George Strine, charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper plates; Anthony P. Carvino, charged with grand larceny and breaking and entering; and Arthur C. Smith, charged with automobile larceny.

Alexandrians Advised To Get Auto Tags Now

A plea to Alexandria motorists to obtain license tags early and avoid the last-minute rush was issued today by the Aero Auto Co. at 1101 King street and the Mount Vernon Motors at 121 South Alfred street, where tags are being issued.

There are no lines and very little waiting now, officials of the firms said, and failure of motorists to take advantage of the opportunity to get their renewal tags now will result in a rush just before the April 15 deadline.

In addition to issuing renewal tags, both firms are issuing renewals of operators' licenses and are equipped to furnish the necessary notary service.

All commercial vehicle licenses and new license tags must be obtained at the Arlington office.